

**CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 21, 2003**

**Advisory Committee Attendees:**

Bob Clayton	Chris Majors	Mark Varien
Duane Gerren	Chuck McAfee	Kelly Wilson
Bill Lipe	Liz Tozer	Selwyn Whiteskunk

**Bureau of Land Management Attendees:**

LouAnn Jacobson, Monument Manager

Steve Kandell, Monument Land Use Planner

Victoria Atkins, Anasazi Heritage Center Interpretive Specialist

**Agenda**

9:00am - 9:15am	Greetings and Introductions
9:15am - 9:45am	Planning Update and Overview of BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C
9:45am - 10:00am	Break
10:00am - 11:30am	Comment and Discussion on Draft Public Participation Plan and Advisory Committee Meeting Strategy
11:30am - 12:30pm	Lunch at Anasazi Heritage Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion of Future Educational Opportunities</li><li>• Review of Example Planning Documents</li></ul>
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Review of Current Planning Issues and Management Concerns
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Overview of Monument Land Health Determinations
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Election of Chair(s)
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Public Comment
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Next Agenda

**Note, the remainder of these minutes describes the discussion associated with each agenda topic.**

## **Greetings and Introductions**

LouAnn Jacobson welcomed all participants to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves. Steve Kandell then reviewed the meeting agenda and minutes from the July 29, 2003 meeting. Chuck McAfee identified a need to respond to a letter submitted by Mr. Walt Heikes to all the advisory committee members. Chuck agreed to draft a response letter and provide it to LouAnn for her review. The committee agreed to have Kelly Wilson review and sign the letter without further discussion.

## **Planning Update and Overview of BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C**

Steve Kandell provided an update on the planning process. Items discussed included: 1) recent hiring of a range subcontractor to do more public outreach on the grazing issue; 2) distribution of Planning Newsletter #1; 3) completion of the Community-based Partnership Workshop; 4) coordinating planning with Hovenweep National Monument and the Utah BLM Monticello Field Office; and 5) reminder of the upcoming Intertribal Meeting from November 3-5, 2003, the Sonoran Institute Economic Profile System Workshop on November 13, 2003 and the Public Scoping Workshop the evening of October 21, 2003.

LouAnn Jacobson noted the completion of a new archaeological inventory on 9,700 acres in East Rock Canyon, Burro Point and Woods Canyon Pueblo. About 920 archaeological sites were inventoried along with impacts to them. Bob Clayton asked how an archaeological site is defined. LouAnn noted that sites can be placed into three categories, including isolated finds and category one and two sites. Duane Gerren requested to see examples of these categories of sites in the field. LouAnn also commented on the information that was generated during the small group break-out sessions during the Community-based Partnership Workshop. She felt that the work produced during these sessions should be followed up on.

Liz Tozer requested that the meeting summary from the Intertribal Meeting be provided to all the committee members.

Steve Kandell provided a short overview of Appendix C from the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook. Referring to Appendix C, he highlighted the type of plan decisions that need to be made under each resource (e.g., vegetation) and use (e.g., grazing).

## **Comment and Discussion on Draft Public Participation Plan and Advisory Committee Meeting Strategy**

Steve Kandell provided a brief overview of the Draft Public Participation Plan. This document identifies how the Monument will communicate with the public throughout the planning process. Committee members identified additional locations where meeting notices and the Draft Plan should be distributed. They include the Dove Creek Library, Towaoc Library, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Headquarters, the Sale Barn in Cortez, Dolores and Mancos Libraries and the Dolores

County Courthouse. Bill Lipe asked what scientific organizations are included in the Monument Mailing Database. Steve Kandell said he would provide a list of scientific organizations currently in the database for Bill's review.

Steve Kandell walked through the Advisory Committee Meeting Strategy and asked the members if they wanted to use "working groups" to accomplish their work (e.g., develop alternatives). Discussion surrounding the use of "working groups" focused first on how they would be organized. Suggestions were made to organize them based on resource categories or zones (e.g., frontcountry, backcountry) within the Monument.

Mike Preston of Montezuma County shared his thoughts on how the committee might function. He noted that alternatives development is a central component to the planning process, which the committee should focus their work on. He explained that historically alternatives development is a step in the planning process that didn't have much public involvement, and that the advisory committee has a great opportunity to bring the public's ideas into this process. This could be accomplished by the committee bringing ideas from their informal communications with the public to the committee meetings.

Chris Majors suggested not using "working groups", but to instead work through each planning issue with the entire committee. Chris also suggested having open voting versus secret ballots when making decisions and that during alternatives development the committee recommend standards and criteria instead of specific alternatives. These standards or criteria would then be used by BLM in developing the specific alternatives. Committee members agreed with this approach.

LouAnn Jacobson informed the committee members that alternatives development is scheduled to be completed by April 8, 2004. Committee members agreed that at the next meeting they would identify the core planning issues they would work on. In addition, they would develop a work plan to get through these issues in a timely manner. Bill Lipe voiced concern over identifying the core planning issues, prior to the public scoping process being completed on November 28, 2003. Mark Varien suggested leaving time in the work plan to address new or critical issues raised by the public.

## **Discussion of Future Educational Opportunities and Review of Example Planning Documents**

Steve Kandell indicated that as the committee begins working through the planning issues, educational needs will develop naturally. However, if the committee has any specific education or data needs currently they can ask for the BLM's assistance in meeting them. The committee was also provided with the BLM Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument's resource management plan as an example of the type of document that will be developed using their recommendations.

LouAnn Jacobson informed the committee about an inholding in the Monument (e.g., Burt Price Ranch) that is currently held by the Farm Service Bureau. The Monument has received about \$25,000.00 to treat noxious weeds on the property. However, the property first needs to be

turned over to the BLM. The Farm Service Bureau is considering giving the property to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). LouAnn asked Selwyn Whiteskunk if the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Counsel had an interest in the BIA managing this property. Selwyn indicated that the tribal counsel had not discussed this issue to date and requested LouAnn provide him with information on the property. LouAnn agreed to provide Selwyn with information to provide to the tribal counsel for use in their discussions.

## **Review of Current Planning Issues and Management Concerns**

Steve Kandell reviewed a list of current planning issues and management concerns with the committee. This list was generated from BLM internal meetings and through the Planning Kick-off Meeting, which was attended by some of the committee members.

## **Overview of Monument Land Health Determinations**

Leslie Stewart, Monument Ecologist, provided the committee with an overview of the Colorado BLM Standards for Public Land Health. Leslie Stewart and other staff have recently completed a process for determining if these standards are being achieved on the Monument. These Standards for Public Land Health were developed by the resource advisory councils in Colorado and were subsequently made part of all BLM resource management plans in 1996.

Leslie discussed the data collection effort that supported the land health determinations. She noted that 356 points on the Monument were sampled as part of a rangeland health assessment. In brief, a qualitative analysis was performed to determine the degree of departure of 18 indicators (e.g., soil stability) from ecological reference areas. Committee members were provided with a technical reference entitled “Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health Version 3.”

Steve Kandell noted that we will have to address how we are meeting or not meeting the land health standards in the current planning effort. Chris Majors asked if the drought conditions in 2000 and 2001 were factored in to the assessment process. Leslie responded that the assessment was only a snapshot of conditions on the ground. However, this snapshot is a good means of identify problem areas in the Monument. Chris asked if there is a strong human element in the sampling process. Leslie indicated that a stratified random sampling procedure was used. Chris asked how long it takes to reverse a poor land health trend to good. Leslie indicated that it’s largely dependent on the soil type and proximity to a good seed source. Chris noted that he didn’t want current livestock operators to be faulted with poor land health conditions that were the fault of others made in the 1920s and 1930s. Mark Varien cautioned using the data as an absolute determination of land health, but instead thought it should be used as one of many tools in determining the appropriate management changes needed.

## **Election of Chair(s)**

Steve Kandell asked the committee if they wanted to elect a committee chairperson and vice chairperson. The committee asked what the function of these positions would be. It was explained that the chairperson would be responsible for running the meetings and assisting with

setting the meeting agendas. The vice chairperson would serve in the role of the chairperson if they are not present at a meeting. Committee members asked how long individuals would serve in these positions. LouAnn Jacobson responded that the charter allowed for them to serve for one year.

Duane Gerren nominated Kelly Wilson as chairperson and Bob Clayton seconded the nomination. Duane Gerren then nominated Chuck McAfee as vice chairperson and Mark Varien seconded the nomination. Committee members were asked if there were any objections to these nominations. No objections were made and the nominations were approved. Committee members then unanimously voted in Kelly Wilson as chairperson and Chuck McAfee as vice chairperson.

### **Public Comment**

Individuals present from the public were asked if they wanted to address the committee. No members of the public wished to address the committee.

### **Next Agenda**

Committee members agreed to hold two additional meetings on December 9, 2003 and January 6, 2004 from 9:00am to 3:30pm at the Anasazi Heritage Center. Steve Kandell agreed to develop a draft work plan and list of current planning issues for the next meeting. The committee agreed to have members of Jones & Stokes Associates present at the next meeting to help facilitate. Dave Allen, a member of the public, noted that the success of the Dolores River Project was largely due to the use of a good facilitator.

The meeting ended at 2:55pm.